

ASIA SAFE ABORTION PARTNERSHIP



ANNUAL REPORT



2022

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1–2	From the Coordinator's Desk
3–30	ASAP Activites
31–35	ASAP as Panelist
36–42	ASAP as Participant
43–46	Blogs
47–51	Publications
52–56	Social Media

FROM THE COORDINATOR'S DESK

It is 2023 already!

As travel opened up last year, life seems to have gone back to the 'old' normal in many ways, instead of the much hoped for 'new' normal where we would have more investment in public sector and health services, greater awareness of the importance of frontline and health workers, better support for women involved in relentless unpaid labour and a deeper knowing of the massive interconnectedness of all our lives on this one planet that we share.

We witnessed human beings and social structures at their best in developing a vaccine at super speed but then falling back on the old power dynamics which meant Europe got the vaccine faster and cheaper than Africa could.

We had many countries take up telehealth for medical abortion and retain those systems post pandemic while we had the Taliban takeover Afghanistan and stop girls from studying beyond 6 th standard.

ASAP members and partners and allies everywhere showed up with courage and resilience and a capacity for rising to their highest and best selves like the champions they all truly are.

We conducted our first hybrid YAI in Karachi in May, the first in-person YAI and YAR in Kathmandu in June and then went on to organize 7 more before the year was out. As much as we love our virtual spaces that allowed us to be more inclusive, we delighted in being in the same physical spaces.

FROM THE COORDINATOR'S DESK

Sharing positive energies and those informal conversations where sometimes the golden nuggets of learning can be found even more so than in the planned sessions!

The pandemic caused an explosion in online engagement and we realized that safe abortion rights activists, advocates and defenders needed to step up our game and look into online safety issues that we face with every tweet, every search and every email.

We also worked proactively to continue to build an inclusive movement and deepened our work with the deaf and hard of hearing community and transmen across the region.

A play turned into an online performance, a stage performance recorded as a video and videos reflecting ethnographic research were also the amazing and creative highlights of the past year.

We look ahead at an even more eventful year as we start to revitalize the network and the safe abortion rights movement in the region and we thank you all for being with us on this journey.

A famous couplet by a much-loved Urdu poet from India, Majrooh Sultanpuri, reminds us that it is not just the power of the one who starts the journey towards a goal, but the collective power of each one who joins in and contributes towards building a movement.

*Main akela hi chala tha janib-e-manzil magar,
log saath aate gaye aur karvaan banta gaya
(I set off alone towards the destination,
but people joined in and the caravan kept on growing)*

Suchitra Dalvie

ASAP ACTIVITIES

Shaping Safer Online Spaces

Through our strategy for Shaping Safer Online Spaces we have taken the initiative to explore and understand the safety, security and censorship issues involved in the multiple online platforms that all of us use as advocates, providers, users and activists in sexual and reproductive health and rights.

We are seeing a global trend of increasing suppression, silencing and threats being faced by those who speak out against oppressive regimes or conservative politics and highlight the violations faced by vulnerable communities.

We also know that those who own and manage the various platforms can, at the behest of the governments, limit our rights to freedom of expression and free speech thus silencing us overnight and leaving those who depend on us for information and support helpless and lost.

As leaders in the SRHR and safe abortion rights movements, it is our responsibility to be aware of the risks and start to work on reducing harm, protecting our data, responding to threats and ensuring the safety of the service seekers.

The first step we undertook for this was to conduct a global survey earlier this year with key stakeholders in our field of work, which gave us very valuable insights. We are currently working on a guidebook for addressing and managing issues like cybersecurity threats, hacking and trolling.



The Amazing Flabby Breasted Virgin & Other Sordid Tales | February 2022



ASAP in collaboration with KathaSiyah, held the first screening of their play this year, which has been in planning and was inspired around two years ago from the writings of Coordinator Dr Suchitra Dalvie (Being a Feminist Gynaecologist in a Patriarchal World). The article inspired Ayesha Susan Thomas, who is Theater Practitioner, Teacher and Co-Founder of KathaSiyah to write a play based on the perspective of how medicine services the patriarchy by modifying and controlling women's bodies.

The Amazing Flabby-Breasted Virgin & Other Sordid Tales is a playful, irreverent digital performance. This performance is part of an educational arts project on systemic issues in both medicine and education today. It plays with the myths and magical thinking that surround and define the non-masculine, non-heterosexual body. It poses surreal and satirical questions about how women's bodies are taught, perceived and practiced within medical education in the urban Indian context.

Building Inclusive Movements | ASAP with CANs

Carrying forward our last year's vision of finding synergies and developing solidarities between various human rights, sexual and reproductive rights, and social justice movements, ASAP is continuing to work closely along with the Country Advocacy Networks, with the deaf and hard of hearing community across the region, to create primer videos explaining SRHR concepts in sign languages.

This year, we shared the video by YoSHAN from Nepal explaining 'safe abortion' and by Vietnam Youth Action for Choice explaining 'gender based violence' in sign language.



Focus Group Discussion with deaf and hard of hearing community

After careful deliberations with Saudamini Pethe over the past year, who represents the deaf and hard of hearing community, we organized a focus group discussion, led by Assistant Coordinator Nandini Mazumder to further understand their challenges when it comes to accessing information around SRHR. Based on some of the key points and issues raised during the meeting, we will be working closely with the community in the coming year in trying to find solutions and make information more accessible.

#LikeForAbortionRights | International Women's Day | March 8th



This year, keeping in mind our overall theme and work around digital safety for SRHR and safe abortion rights advocates we focussed on highlighting the benefits as well as challenges, when it comes to using social media platforms for advocating for safe abortion rights access. Throughout the day, we shared statements from our CANs while also encouraging partner organizations to participate in the campaign and share their views as well.





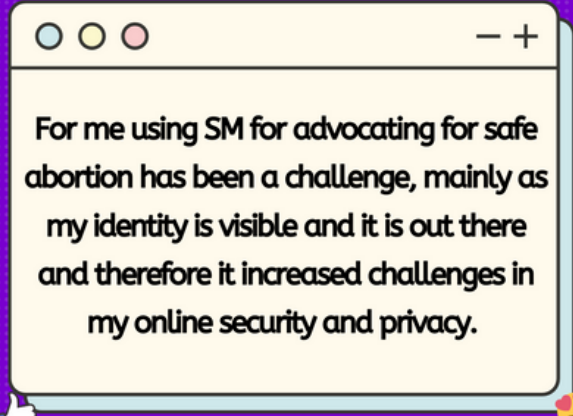

Social media provides us with forums to discuss the lacunae in MTP laws, access to safe abortions and hear about experiences of various seekers, evoking solidarity, sensitisation and the zeal to make pro choice voices heard."

- Aadhiya Srivastava, India

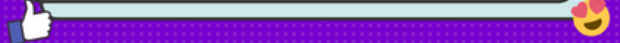


Today, almost everyone has access to social media providing us with the opportunity to provide correct information to seekers, students and masses about safe abortions. It is our humble attempt to add our knowledge into the vast sea of available resources, to help unlearn and relearn!



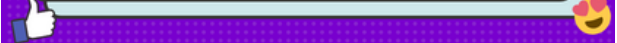
- Aakshi Gupta, India



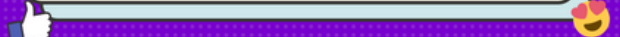
For me using SM for advocating for safe abortion has been a challenge, mainly as my identity is visible and it is out there and therefore it increased challenges in my online security and privacy.



Access to internet has been a crucial for women and girls with diversity to access evidence based information about safe abortion. Their rights to access safe and non-judgmental abortion service has been ensured through various online platforms. However, there are anti-abortion campaigns which stigmatize women accessing abortion service.



We have been leveraging social media platforms for the advocacy on abortion rights and it has been very effective for us to reach out to many young people. However, the online platform is full of risks and surveillance, and discussion on sensitive topics is sometimes challenging.



Access to internet has been a crucial for women and girls with diversity to access evidence based information about safe abortion. Their rights to access safe and non-judgmental abortion service has been ensured through various online platforms. However, there are anti-abortion campaigns which stigmatize women accessing abortion service.

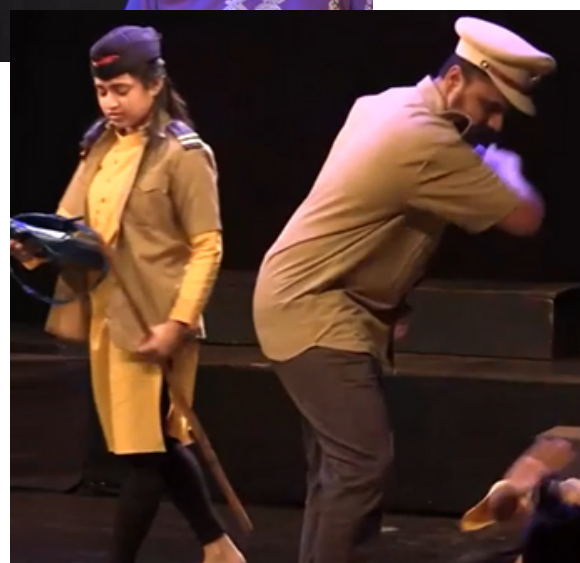


'71 to 21 : Back and Forth?' | ASAP & MASUM

This International Women's Day, ASAP, along with Mahila Sarvangeen Utkarsh Mandal presented the first glimpse of our video drama on people's right to access safe abortion services in India, the challenges they face and why, despite abortion being legal in the country, is still not accessible for many.

The play will be in Marathi, with English subtitles. For regular updates on the play, you can follow us on our social media.

You can view the trailer [here](#).



Youth Advocacy Institute | ISAY and ASAP | 8th – 10th April 2022 | Mumbai, India

India Safe Abortion Youth Advocates (ISAY) conducted the first in-person YAI post pandemic. The 3 day YAI was attended by 17 participants who were medical students from Bangalore, Mumbai, Nashik and Pune. Like always this batch of youth champions was extremely enthusiastic as well and have continued working with the ISAY team in expanding the message of safe abortion as a human right among their peers as well.

Read full report [here](#).



17-21': Back and Forth? Play Screening | MASUM | 12th May 2022 | Pune & Online

Mahila Sarvangeen Utkarsh Mandal (MASUM) with support of ASAP recently created a pioneering and unique one- of- its- kind play on safe abortion rights in India, covering a wide range of related issues including patriarchy, stigma, services, laws. . The play is written and performed in Marathi (regional language) but is being subtitled in English is a path breaking effort and a legacy that the safe abortion rights movement can use for advocacy, capacity building and learning.



Youth Advocacy Institute | Pakistan Advocacy Network (PAN) and ASAP | 13 – 15th May 2022 | Karachi, Pakistan



Our Pakistan CAN organized the first ever national YAI in the country, which also had the distinction of being the first hybrid YAI ever organized by our network. Due to restrictions in traveling, the ASAP team joined the workshop via Zoom video conference over the 3 days. It was attended by 21 participants from across the country, from different fields of work like lawyers, doctors and civil society organization representatives.

Read full report [here](#).



International Day of Action for Women's Health | 28th May 2022 | Online

'Inform Us Don't Conform Us'

This year our photo campaign was a call to action against the hypocrisy of social media platforms in censoring content, but was also meant as a wake up call for SRHR activists online so that as we navigate online spaces, we do so keeping in mind the safety of ourselves as well as others.

#InternationalDayOfActionForWomensHealth
#InformUsDontConformUs



Dr Suchitra Dalvie
@ddalvie

Hate speech and sexism fine but
information on safe abortion
gets blocked?!"

#InformUsDontConformUs
#ResistAndPersist
#WomensHealthMatters #IDAWH2022



Samira
@samira

Facebook we humbly request you to
stop shadowbanning and labelling
everything related to sexual health of
women and non binary persons as
'pornographic content'

#InformUsDontConformUs
#ResistAndPersist
#WomensHealthMatters
#IDAWH2022



Ananya
@ananya

Can we please have 'Community
Guidelines' that actually support
communities rather than just tokenistic
words, that almost never hold
perpetrators accountable

#InformUsDontConformUs



International Day of Action for Women's Health | 28th May 2022 | Online

'Inform Us Don't Conform Us'

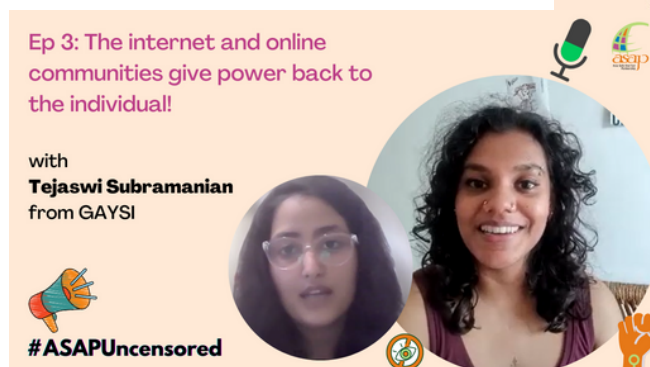
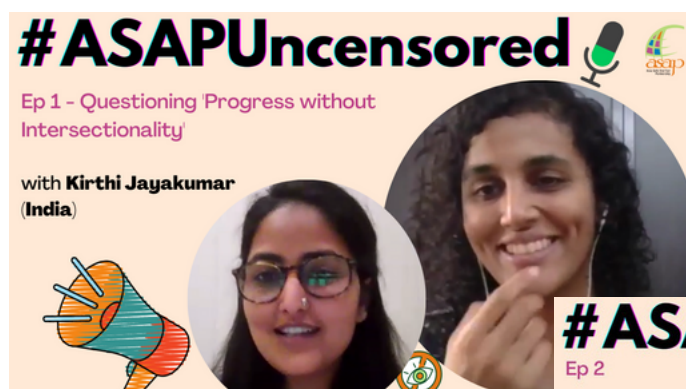


Shaping Safer Online Spaces & #ASAPUncensored | Ongoing

Continuing with our theme of the year focussing on Shaping Safer Online Spaces, we continued sharing important updates on things that safe abortion rights advocates need to be careful of while navigating online spaces.

On 28th May, as part of our #InformUsDontConformUs campaign, we launched our new series of interviews called 'ASAP Uncensored'. With this series we wish to further challenge the efforts of tech and social media platforms trying to censor & restrict circulation of information on safe abortion and other sexual health issues along with encouraging more nuanced & uncensored discourses on the internet on topics like safe abortion or bodily autonomy & online sexuality and much more.

We have released 3 episodes till now. You can watch them by clicking on the image



Youth Advocacy Institute | YoSHAN and ASAP| 22nd – 24th June | Kathmandu, Nepal



ASAP and Youth Led SRHR Advocacy Nepal (YoSHAN), the Country Advocacy Network of ASAP in Nepal, organized a country YAI, with over 20 participants from different fields of work like lawyers, medical students, doctors and nurses.

[Read full report here.](#)



Regional Youth Advocacy Refresher | ASAP

| 24th – 26th June | Kathmandu, Nepal

We conducted the first in-person Regional Refresher Institute post pandemic. This workshop was not just a refresher for all those who had been attending our online YAls (2020–2021) but also a reunion for the ASAP network, as it saw participation from members from all our CANs. While we held our refresher workshop with the new participants, we were also able to hear from each of our 8 CANs about their journeys and have an in –depth conversation regarding the challenges they faced during the pandemic, while figuring out the way ahead.

Read full report [here](#).





Mongolian & Italian Medical Abortion Factsheet Launched | Available Online

We're extremely glad to announce that our factsheet now has a Mongolian version which was translated and designed by our country partners Women For Change and an Italian version, translated by an anonymous abortion rights advocate from the country.

You can access them by clicking on the images.

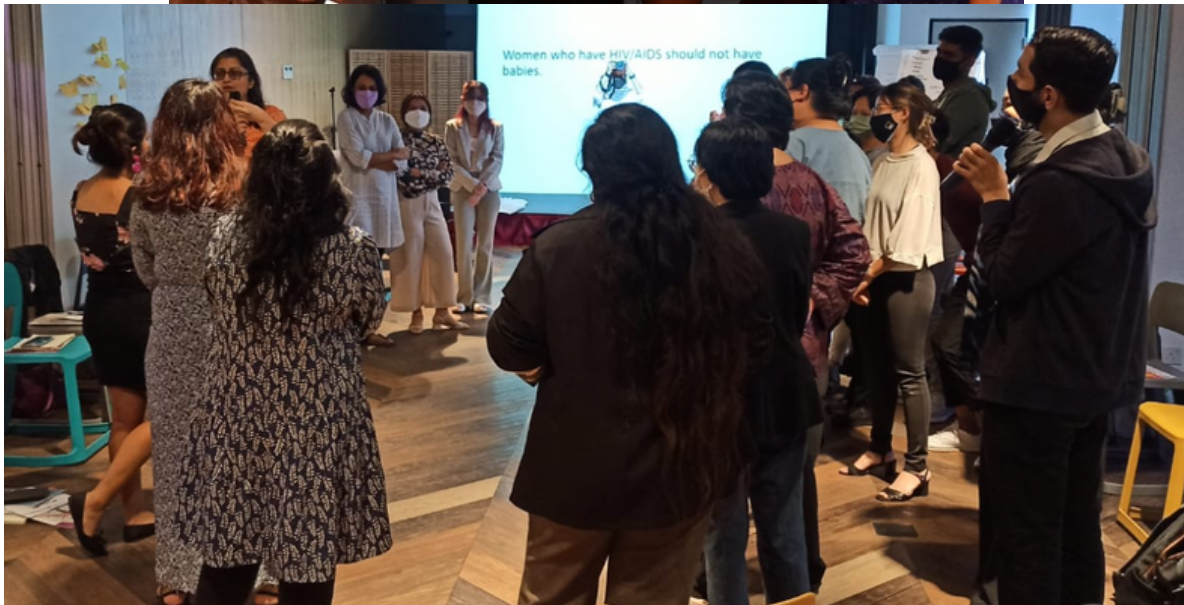


Youth Advocacy Institute | Reproductive Rights Advocacy Alliance Malaysia (RRAAM) | 27th–28th August | Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

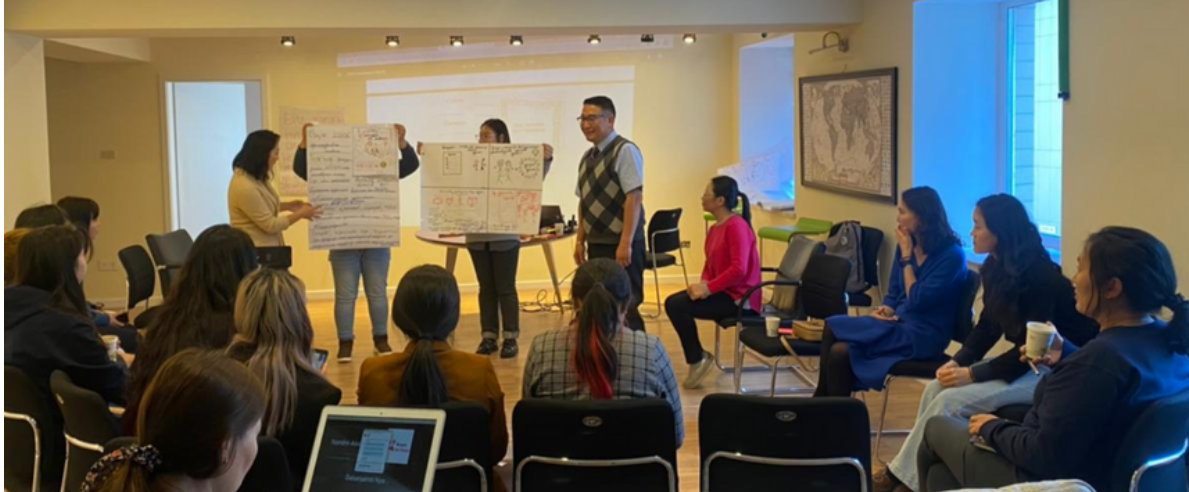
We organized a YAI post the pandemic in Malaysia in collaboration with RRAAM. The YAI had 26 participants from across Malaysia as well as some from Indonesia and of Syrian origin, who brought a richness to the discussions with experience from various backgrounds. Majority of the participants were civil society members, and there was representation from lawyers and medical students as well.

Read full report [here](#).





Training on Safe Abortion Rights | Women For Change | 21st – 22nd September | Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia



ASAP in collaboration with WFC, organized a 2 day hybrid workshop on safe abortion rights in Mongolia. ASAP Coordinator Dr Suchitra Dalvie and co-founder of MASUM, our regional partner Manisha Gupte facilitated the sessions via Zoom, starting with an understanding the politics of patriarchy and it's linkages with the right to safe abortion. The 2nd day was led by the WFC team, focussing on the local challenges, concerning SRHR and safe abortion access in the country and how they can be countered.

Some of the feedback received from the participants –

- values clarification was amazing as it taught me how to engage and advocate intellectually
- it was very insightful and i was able to self- reflect on how many views were actually conditioned by society
- Strength of the workshop was definitely the trainers and the discussions, felt engaged throughout
- The topics were well chosen and discussed. I actually got to learn a lot that I had not learnt before.

Tweetathon: Reproductive Rights and Sign Language | 23rd September | Online

The month of September is the Deaf Awareness Month, leading up to 23rd September, which is celebrated as the International Day of Sign Languages. As part of our Building Inclusive Movements initiative we wanted to create visibility for the perspective of the community and their access/lack of access to SRHR Information and services & highlight the role that organizations like ASAP and others can play in truly making SRHR an inclusive & accessible movement.



saudamini pethe
@saudamini_pethe

...

Replying to @asapasia and @YANSriLanka

Answer 5

True Inclusion is possible when deaf members are included right from the start of the process of offering accessible SRHR information in ISL



Youth Advocacy Network Sri Lanka
@YANSriLanka

...

Sign language is yet to be recognized as an official language in [#SriLanka](#) 🇱🇰. There is some progress in accessible communication due to the efforts of non governmental organizations. Yet there is a lot more that needs to be done.

[#SignLanguageDay2022](#) [#LKA](#)

International Safe Abortion Day: Make Safe Abortion Certain | 28th September | Online

This year we focussed on the global theme of 'Abortion in Uncertain Times' along with our own perspective, that anyone who needs an abortion is really facing uncertain times.

We shared quotes from our Youth Champions from Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Indonesia, , Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Vietnam , reflecting their experience as safe abortion rights and SRHR activists, working in certain as well as uncertain times, in their respective countries.

Through these quotes, we can get an idea of the kind of challenges they faced from various aspects, be it from the authorities, lack of enough resources, restrictions on mobility and privacy, systemic gender violence so and so forth.

Despite these roadblocks Youth Champions across the region have worked tirelessly to make sure to the best of their capacity, that access to SRHR and safe abortion services are not hindered, regardless of global pandemics, economic crises, or even in 'peaceful times'.





Despite having the most liberal law for abortion care in the region, Vietnamese women continue getting objection from healthcare providers in the public sector due to the concurrent stigma surrounding their decision. Safe abortion is healthcare and profession, it should not be restrained by belief, patriarchal norms, and myths. This is why we must continue the conversation about abortion even if it has been legalised.

Le Hoang Minh Son
Vietnam



Sri Lanka has criminalized safe abortion. Studies that were conducted five to six years prior suggests that women have to pay between Rs.50,000 to 150,000 to receive these services. Post the economic crises these prices have also spiked. These issues and many other issues related to accessing safe abortion services can be well mitigated if safe abortion is decriminalised in Sri Lanka

Desaree Soysa
Sri Lanka



Even though Indonesia has the regulation on the exception of abortion under 2 cases - 'medical emergency and pregnancy due to rape', it's not well implemented. During the time of crisis more barriers are added towards this. Stigma against abortion further hinder people to find the right information and ended up with unsafe methods that could endanger their life.

Ignatia Gloria
Indonesia



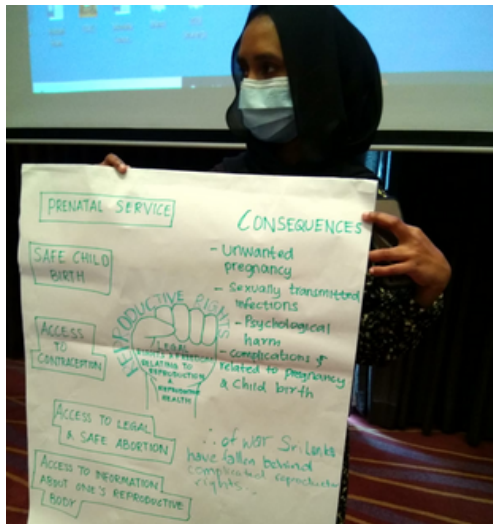
Youth Advocacy Institute | ASAP & Mumbai Veterinary College | 21-23rd November | Mumbai, India

ASAP in collaboration with the Mumbai Veterinary College organised a YAI for selected participants from the college, as part of their college's National Social Service project. These participants will be travelling to rural and marginalised areas across the state to engage with communities regarding their SRHR and right to safe abortion.



Youth Advocacy Institute | ASAP & Youth Advocacy Network Sri Lanka | 8th – 10th December | Colombo, Sri Lanka

ASAP in collaboration with YANSL conducted our last YAI for the year in Colombo Sri Lanka, which saw participants from other states of the country as well. The group consisted of individuals representing diverse professions such as lawyers, medical students, journalists who brought their unique concerns and perspectives to the workshop, further enriching the discussions.



ASAP & YANSL Strategic Meeting | 11th December | Colombo, Sri Lanka

As part of the continuing work with our country affiliates, we organised a meeting with YANSL to discuss their upcoming plans for the safe abortion rights movement in the country. Given the recent economic upheaval faced by the country following COVID lockdowns, SRHR of women has suffered greatly, the impact of which is continuing to be felt. We wish to work closely with the CAN to strategize next steps in the coming year and ensure that access to safe abortion services & information remains unhindered in the country

ASAP Field Visit to MASUM | International Human Rights Day | MASUM | 8th–11th December | Pune, India



Communication and Network Officer Ayesha Bashir, visited the office of our country partner Mahila Sarvangeen Utkarsh Mandal where she provided training to their social media team from rural areas on the importance of creating a communication strategy based on their cultural context and how they can protect their data while being online.

On 9th–10th we attended MASUM's events organised for Human Rights Day, where women from over 25 villages came together to talk about their rights and the role played by MASUM in providing the necessary support for their empowerment and independence.



ASAP Learning Retreats

Through various organizational effectiveness programmes ASAP has invested in leadership development, alumni engagement, monitoring and learning processes as well as strategy planning. We are currently looking into exploring different models of functioning that would allow ASAP to grow in a decentralized manner with a collective ownership from the CANs and non-CAN members.

In 2021 ASAP launched a 'Learning Retreat' project for the staff, where we choose, researched and presented on relevant or interesting topics through which can have an opportunity to create solidarity and exchange of ideas and learning in an informal but curated space.

Shared below are some examples.



Despite the fact that Ada Lovelace (daughter of the poet Lord Byron), was the inventor of the modern computer programme, currently 8 out of 10 software developers and A.I. programmers are men.

Death Penalty – Barbaric



ASAP AS PANELIST

National Consultation – NFHS 5: Deeper Analysis from Safe Abortion Lens

Communication and Network Officer Ayesha Bashir, visited the office of our country partner Mahila Sarvangeen Utkarsh Mandal where she provided training to their social media team from rural areas on the importance of creating a communication strategy based on their cultural context and how they can protect their data while being online.

On 9th-10th we attended MASUM's events organised for Human Rights Day, where women from over 25 villages came together to talk about their rights and the role played by MASUM in providing the necessary support for their empowerment and independence.

Demanding Right to Safe Abortions | SAMA | IWD'22



Coordinator Dr Dalvie was invited as a speaker at this webinar, which was organised to amplify the voices and struggles of communities living in marginalised contexts while demanding their Right to Safe Abortion. The panel was an important platform to engage in discussion towards strengthening our collective understanding on legality / legal complexities, barriers existing at the health system level vis-a-vis abortion and figure out, possible strategies to engage and navigate the health system towards making it more accountable to the provisioning of abortion care. Coordinator Dr Suchitra Dalvie represented ASAP.

The Law and Evidence on Self-Managed Abortions | Center for Public Health Law Research

This series of four panels brought together empirical researchers and legal experts to explore the state of the evidence, the state of the law and the relationships between the two in the context of self-managed abortions in the US and around the world.

Coordinator Dr Suchitra Dalvie represented ASAP as a panellist on the session – Self Managed Abortion and Law.

The Law and Evidence on Self-Managed Abortion

VIRTUAL WEBINAR SERIES

This series of four panels brings together empirical researchers and legal experts to explore the state of the evidence, the state of the law, and relationships between the two in the context of self-managed medication abortion in the US and around the world.

PANEL 2: OCTOBER 12, 2022, 9:00 AM ET

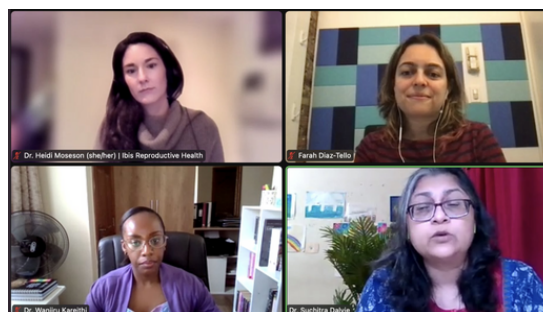
How do restrictions on abortion provision drive self-managed abortion?

Wanjiru Kareithi, Co-coordinator of Lawyers Network supporting self-managed abortion activism throughout Africa

Dr. Suchitra Dalvie, Coordinator, Asian Safe Abortion Partnership

Dr. Heidi Moseson, Senior Research Scientist at Ibis Reproductive Health

Farah Diaz-Tello, Senior Counsel & Legal Director, If/When/How – Lawyering for Reproductive Justice



Evidence in Action: Making the case for investing in SRH | Guttmacher Institute | ICFP | 16th November | ICFP Pattaya, Thailand

Coordinator Dr Suchitra Dalvie was invited as a panellist for this side event of ICFP where she spoke about the importance of data and why it needs to be looked at from the feminist perspective. She also highlighted that as human rights advocates we should be wary of generalisations based on mere statistics and always keep in consideration the rights of an individual along with the local cultural context of each country and its intersectionalities.



De-Mystifying Self – Managed Abortions: What it takes to put Misoprostol in Women’s Hands | Fos Feminista | 15th November | ICFP Pattaya, Thailand

Assistant Coordinator Nandini Mazumder represented ASAP as a panellist on this session which aimed to ‘de-mystify self- managed abortion through a ‘choose your adventure’ exploration of strategies for making safe abortion self-management a reality in low resource settings. The session busted various myths that restrict the progress of reproductive rights and answered questions around self- management along with addressing the political strategies required to ensure people have this right to choose.

ICFP SIDE-EVENT

DEMYSTIFYING SELF-MANAGED ABORTION:
What it takes to put misoprostol in women's hands

 15 NOVEMBER 2022

 7PM - 9PM

 ROYAL CLIFF GRAND
HOTEL, JOMTIEN 2

 **REGISTER**



Join the International Rescue Committee, Ipas, Fos Feminista, University of Ottawa and partners to demystify self-managed abortion through a “choose your own adventure” exploration of strategies for making safe abortion self-management a reality in low-resource settings. In this interactive session, we will bust myths that impede progress on reproductive rights, answer your burning questions about self-management and hear directly from implementers about practical strategies for giving all people the power to choose. You're welcome to pop-in when you can or stay the whole time - all activities are concurrent! Food and drink provided.

Call to Action for Safe Abortion Rights | ICFP | 16th November | Pattaya, Thailand

In the aftermath of Roe vs Wade, ICFP released a 'Call to Action', demanding Governments, funders and the international community to urgently stand up for abortion rights across the world. Dr Suchitra Dalvie represented ASAP as a panellist and on behalf of South, South-East and South – West Asia endorsed and supported the call to action.



CALL TO ACTION

We call on governments, donors, and the international community to urgently stand up for abortion rights by taking the following action:

1. Ensure universal access to person-centered abortion care for all including young people, through a comprehensive range of pathways to care that maximizes choice, including access to quality medical abortion commodities and opportunities for self-managed abortion, MVA and in-facility care, and access in humanitarian settings.
2. Decriminalize abortion and create a supportive environment for abortion care, including countering organized opposition and harmful conservative norms through strong and coordinated advocacy movements.
3. Provide responsive and long-term funding for abortion care that supports innovation, strengthens health systems and creates sustainable change, including support for civil society and grassroots movements.
4. Recognize abortion as a human right and ensure that abortion is mainstreamed in all SRHR, health, and human rights programs, including integration within Universal Health Coverage and broader health systems.



ASAP AS PARTICIPANT

SheDecides + 5 Conference | Brussels | 19th – 20th May



Coordinator Dr Suchitra Dalvie who is the She Decides Champion for Asia Pacific, attended the SheDecides + 5 conference in Brussels which saw representation from various organizations individuals working on SRHR but also from the Belgium Government who through this conference reaffirmed their support to the SheDecides movement.



Why Digital Rights Are Reproductive Rights | Women's Link Worldwide | 12th May | Online

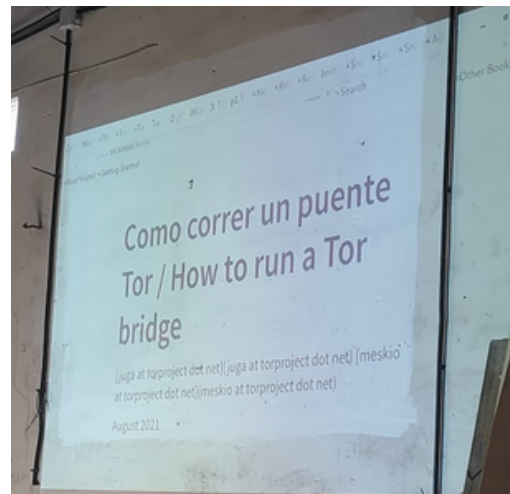
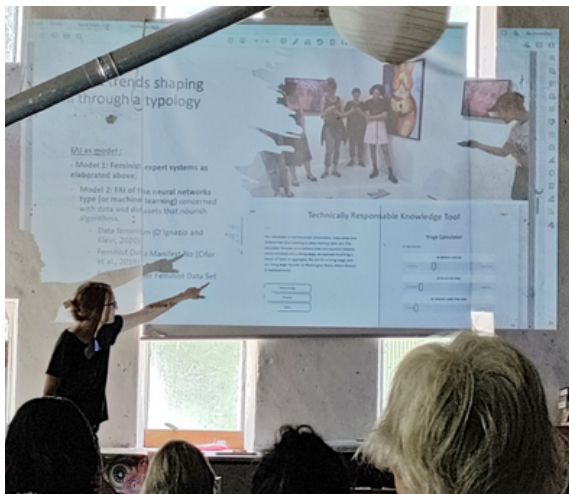
Communications and Network Officer Ayesha Bashir attended this webinar which had panelists from organizations like Article 19 & Women on Web speaking about increased restrictions on online information sharing and how collectives are overcoming challenges being faced due to tech platforms like Facebook or Youtube which are taking down their accounts, for 'going against their community guidelines'.

This was an important discussion, as ASAP too has faced similar barriers online and we too are currently working towards trying to address these issues through Shaping Safer Online Spaces

Conference on Feminist Technology | 1st – 8th August



As part of our capacity building initiative towards Shaping Safer Online Spaces, the Communication and Network Officer recently attended a fascinating conference of collectives working on Feminist Technology creating digital spaces that are inclusive and safe for all, especially women and non- binary persons. We learned a lot about the politics of Internet and how as safe abortion rights organization can we best optimize our network's internal communication and safety of our data, including inculcating certain practices which can be helpful in securing the privacy of our Youth Champions and Country Advocacy Networks, as well as of those who reach out to us.



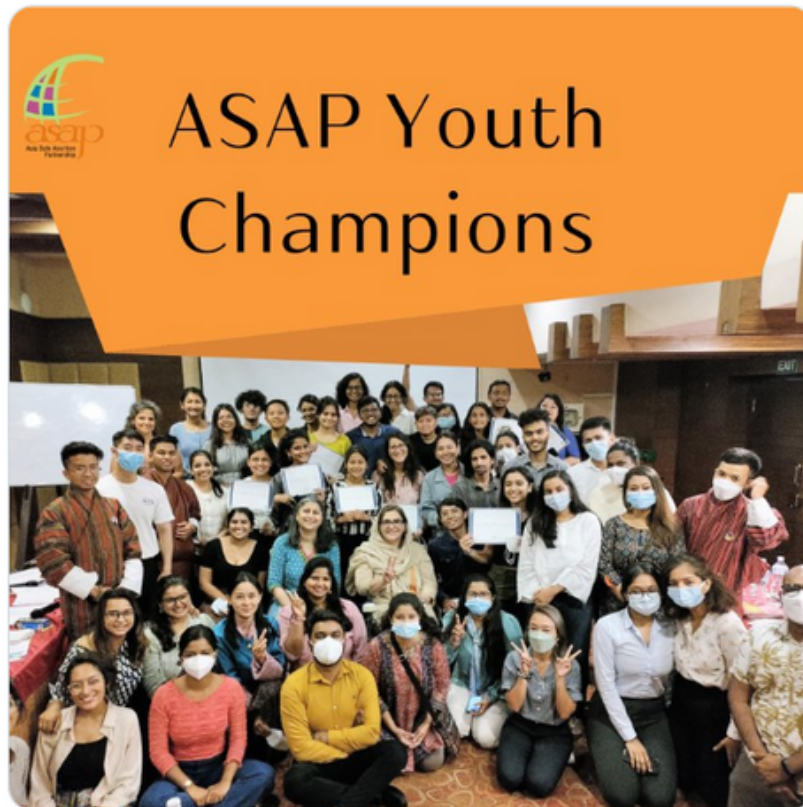
8 before 28th: A Global South – Led Twitter Rally | WGNRR & ASAP | 24th September

As a co-founder and regional partner of the International Safe Abortion Day campaign which was led by WGNRR this year, we hosted a Twitter rally on 24th September. The topic for the rally was focussed on 'the role of young people's activism in the movement for safe and legal abortions'. We shared the work being done by our youth champions and country advocacy networks in ensuring access to SRHR and safe abortion rights information in their respective countries.



ASAP @asapasia · Sep 24

Young people's dissent against human rights violation, have always played a pivotal role in leading movements & bringing about change, however [#SRHR](#) & gender rights movement has truly empowered many [#young](#) people with the decision making power, starting for our own bodies.



WGNRR @WGNRR · Sep 24



Young people are taking leadership in the movement for safe abortion rights. Let's highlight their actions and send out messages of support for day 5 of 8 before the 28th!

ASAP @asapasia · Sep 24 ...
#YoungPeople are also important in recording or archiving the legacy of **#abortionrights** movement within their countries. This initiative was taken up by our **#CAN** from **#SriLanka** when they created one of the most important resources to understand the journey of.. 1/2
[@YANSriLanka](#)

WGNRR @WGNRR · Sep 24
 Young people are taking leadership in the movement for safe abortion rights. Let's highlight their actions and send out messages of support for day 5 of 8 before the 28th!

🗣️ What is the importance of young people's activism in the movement for safe and legal abortions?
[Show this thread](#)



ASAP @asapasia · Sep 24 ...
#YoungPeople from **#Asia** are one of the highest users of **#Internet** & **#SocialMedia** platforms & have used them to mobilize & build solidarity across borders, nationalities etc successfully.
 ASAP **#CAN** from **#Vietnam** Vietnam Youth Action for Choice (VYAC) during **#lockdown** created..1/2

ASAP @asapasia · Sep 24 ...
 a website for people to share their stories of accessing **#abortion** in order to create a community and help people feel safe and not alone in such trying times, when accessing **#safeabortion** services for many people in **#GlobalSouth** was a major challenge.



chuyenbothai.com
 Home - Chuyện Bỏ Thai
 Abortion Story You are not alone! You have experienced so many emotions during your ...

ASAP @asapasia · Sep 24 ...
#YoungPeople can impact **#abortionrights** movement not just as seekers of service, but as providers as too. As young **#doctors**, **#medicalstudents** & other service providers become increasingly sensitized with **#gender** **#sexuality** or to providing a **#safeabortion** service..1/3

ASAP @asapasia · Sep 24 ...
 ..they're bridging a huge gap within the **#SRHR** & **#safeabortion** rights movement.
 Our **#CAN** from **#India** [@isayadvocates](#) have now held multiple sessions with over 700 medical students across **#India** to help them see **#safeabortion** from the rights based perspective & have recently..2/3

🗣️ 1 ↺️ 1 ❤️ 3 ↗️ ||

ASAP @asapasia · Sep 24 ...
 launched a campaign to provide a platform for doctors and medical students in **#India** to anonymously share their experience & 'behind the scenes' in dealing with a patriarchal medical infrastructure.
[facebook.com/isayadvocates/...](#) ✓

[@isayadvocates](#)

#SafeAbortionRegardless
#ASAPAsia



facebook.com
 ISAY - India Safe Abortion Youth Advocates - "Duri...
 "During Ortho postings, the residents would ask all the female interns to sit with them at their tables ...

Tweetathon: Self Managing Abortions and Battling Patriarchal Myths | 15th July

ASAP was invited by The Safe City App for a Tweetathon to raise awareness on accessing medical abortions and how we can combat misconceptions around it's safety by making sure that we're putting out accurate evidence based information online.

You can read the full Tweetathon here.

**Red Dot Foundation - Safecity** · Jul 15, 2022 
[@TheSafecityApp](#) · [Follow](#)
Let's begin with the first question.

- You can tweet your answers with the question number (e.g. A1, A2, A3)
- Use the hashtag [#AbortionRights](#)

[#Safecity](#) [#RedDotFoundation](#)

Self Managing Abortions & Battling Patriarchal Myths
[#AbortionRights](#)

Q1. Do you know about the origin of medical abortion pills?





**ASAP**
[@asapasia](#) · [Follow](#)

The 2 drugs that are used for Medical abortion are Mifepristone and Misoprostol, however in countries where Mifepristone is not available, Misoprostol alone can be used to induce a safe abortion with the dosage varying, depending on the gestation period...(cont)

ASAP at ICFP

ASAP was represented by Coordinator Dr Suchitra Dalvie and Assistant Coordinator Nandini Mazumder, at recently held ICFP 2022 in Pattaya, Thailand. The conference also saw a huge participation from ASAP Alumni Youth Champions, who made their voices heard in important discussions at the event.


Our Youth Champion from Pakistan and founder of Mashal, spoke in a session on Women of Impact about Mashal and the Bridge the Gap app which has provides info bilingually and in audio format on products and locations for contraceptives.

Alumni YC and Asia coordinator of Women On Web Amalia Puri also took the stage to speak about access to safe abortions being our right, during the call for action for abortions rights at ICFP.



BLOGS




ASAP  Jan 10 • 2 min

Shaping Safer Online Spaces for Feminists & Abortion Rights...

In the past 2 years, as we all dealt with multiple lockdowns and limited mobility, ASAP has been constantly experimenting with new ways...




ASAP  Jan 20 • 2 min

Awareness: The Only Approach to Abort Stigma. By Suweeta Xiao...

When the removal of a foetus can save the life of an adult, therefore avoiding mishaps of sacrificing two lives at a time, termination of...




ASAP  Feb 11 • 2 min

Flabby Breasted Virgin & Other Sordid Tales

The Amazing Flabby-Breasted Virgin & Other Sordid Tales is a playful, irreverent digital performance. This performance is part of an...

BLOGS




ASAP  Feb 14 • 5 min

The Idea of Love: A Review of bell hook's 'all about love' by Nandini...

This review is specially to mark Valentine's Day which falls on 14th February every year and is celebrated as a day of love worldwide...




ASAP  Mar 23 • 9 min

'Lockdown without plan, increases risk of unsafe abortions in SL' ASAP...

This blog is part of a series of Covid conversations with members and partners to understand the impact of the pandemic on safe abortion...



ASAP  Apr 7 • 3 min

Sex Selection and Safe Abortion: Unravelling the Gordian Knot. By Suchitr...

The authors have been involved in the safe abortion rights as well as sex determination issues in India as individuals and through their...

104 views 0 comments

3 

BLOGS



ASAP
May 12 • 1 min

'Patriarchy's Spell' by Khushi Mehta

No one questioned when she picked up the car But he was not given the choice to pick a Barbie with a star She was questioned when she...

ADVOCACY



Why Choice Matters

ACCESS AND BARRIERS

#ASADConversationsDuringCovid
Malaysia

Comprehensive Sexuality Education can help solve the crises of 'baby dumping' in Malaysia

Comprehensive Sexuality Education Can Help The Crises of 'Baby Dumping' in Malaysia – ASAP Conversation with Dr Subatra Jayaraj

BLOGS



FEMINISM, VAW, SRHR

'When The Girls Become Women'. By Dr Suchitra Dalvie



ACCESS AND BARRIERS

Internet Consciousness: Seeing a Global Phenomenon from the Asian Perspective. By Ayesha Bashir

Abortion Safety: No longer coat hangers and backstreets, but pills, hotlines and collectives?

PUBLICATIONS

We are proud to share a snippet of the article; 'Sex Selection & Safe Abortion: Unravelling the Gordian Knot' by Coordinator Dr Suchitra Dalvie and Manisha Gupte, co-founder of Mahila Survangeen Utkarsh Mandal (MASUM) and ASAP country partner. The article was published by Family Planning Association of India and It draws a comprehensive picture, of how the issue of 'Sex-Selection' evolved & affected access to safe abortion in India.

For more info, visit the link [here](#).

Women are **still shamed** and made to feel guilty after giving birth to a girl child, and often subjected to violence and/or abandonment.

Neglect and discrimination of girl children continues as well resulting in a **higher death rate for the girl** children below six years of age, even as the policy and programme efforts are on to ensure that more of them are being born.

The conversation and rhetoric around **sex ratio** became more visible and mainstreamed in the 1990s.

Unfortunately this resulted in making the sex ratio a priority as a number to be 'fixed' and deflected attention from the **core issue of gender-based discrimination** which is the reason why daughters are unwanted and sons are desired in India.

PUBLICATIONS



"I recognized that when you really unpack the various layers of patriarchy, all the oppressive frameworks of patriarchy, the core of it really is the need to control women's sexuality. Because unless you can make sure that a particular woman has sex only with her husband, and that too, only after marriage, there was no way in the earlier days to ensure that the son she bears is that of the man. Right from the high premium on virginity before marriage, to the kinds of controls on women's mobility on their work, on their education, the entire focus is to make sure that you're a good wife, and therefore, eventually, a good mother. And in the context of some countries like India, Nepal, Vietnam and China, the whole sex ratio issue is not just about being a mother, it's about being a mother to a son."

– Dr Suchitra Dalvie

PUBLICATIONS

Abortion Is Legal In India But Rules, Stigma Make It Hard To Access

Shreya Raman

May 9, 2022



"There is a very strong stigma attached to abortion, which emerges from socio-cultural notions and the glorification of motherhood," Suchitra Dalvie, a gynaecologist and coordinator of Asia Safe Abortion Partnership (ASAP) told Behanbox. "As a result, it is seen as something that 'good women' won't do."

"This stigma affects the thinking of medical practitioners as well, said Dalvie. "Just because there is an abortion law in the country does not mean all gynaecologists are pro-choice," she said. "Medical education is very much about biomedical training and does not incorporate gender rights or the socio-cultural context [of medical practice]."

– Dr Suchitra Dalvie

PUBLICATIONS

NATIONAL HERALD



नवजीवन

Home News Democracy Investigation Cafe Young India Videos EYE ON RSS

INDIA

Activists hail SC judgment stressing on rights-based perspective for women to seek abortion

The judgement also clarifies that MTP should be accessible to not just cis-gender women, but also to persons who may require access to safe medical termination of their pregnancies



"It's an incredibly powerful ruling that will go a long way towards ensuring autonomy, agency and bodily integrity and rights for all girls, women and pregnant persons,"

– Dr Suchitra Dalvie

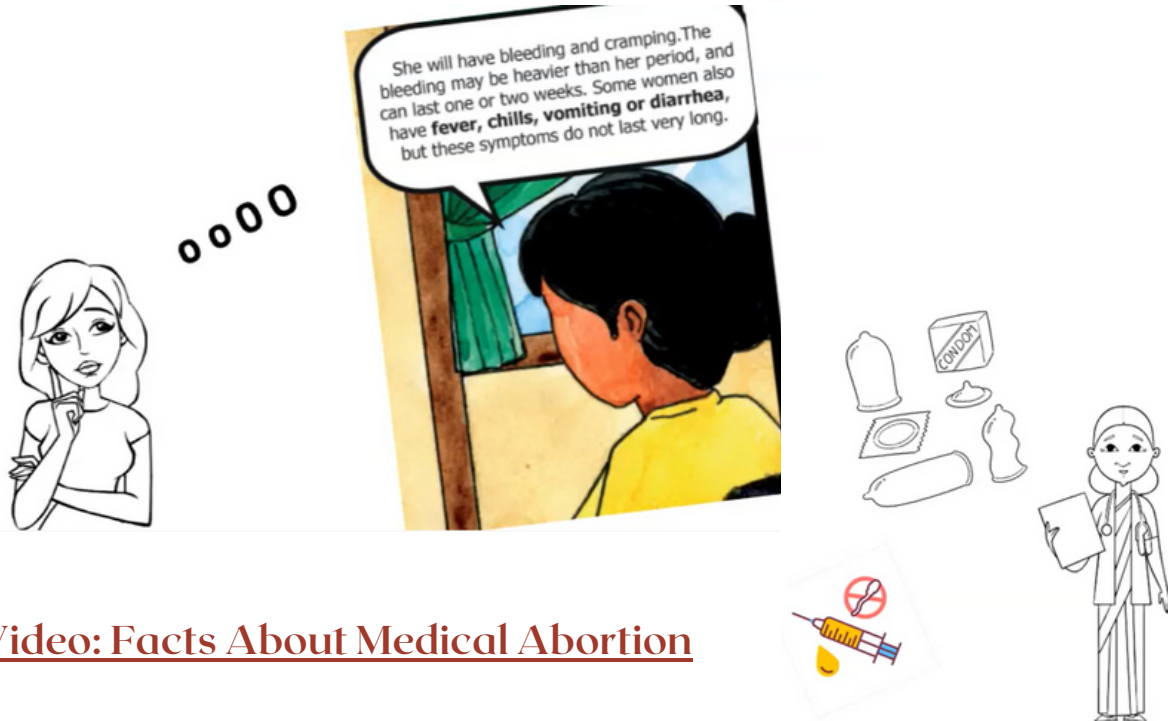
PUBLICATIONS



“[There is] the deeply entrenched patriarchal environment in which motherhood is glorified, in which marriage is seen as sort of compulsory, and there is this general feeling that abortion is not a good thing. We then have a medical system which is fairly misogynistic and is not very supportive of women from the point of view of their rights, agency, and dignity. So, a lot of women are treated badly and even cruelly when they come for abortions.” There is also a lot of coercion for contraception, she added.”

– Dr Suchitra Dalvie

SOCIAL MEDIA



Video: Facts About Medical Abortion



ASAP @asapasia · Sep 28

@shreejao explains in her article 'Even in govt hospitals, surgical abortions can cost Rs 15,500 (£160) while medical abortions are Rs 1,500 (£16). These are exorbitantly high fees for the majority of Dalit women who earn about £1 a week.'

@WGNRR

theguardian.com/global-develop... ✓



The YP Foundation @TheYPFoundation · Sep 27

Q3. Seeking abortion is already an uphill struggle. Abortion seekers from marginalised identities of caste, disability, race face higher institutional discrimination, stigma & risk. How do we look at accessibility to abortion with an intersectional lens?
#safeabortionforeveryone

[Show this thread](#)



1



3



ASAP @asapasia · Sep 28

#SafeAbortion where legal and accessible, is still a privilege for many in countries like #India 🇮🇳 #Pakistan 🇵🇰 #Nepal 🇳🇵 or #Bangladesh 🇬🇧, where factors like #caste perpetrates social & economic inequality, creating barriers in seeking even basic health services.

[#SafeAbortionRegardless](#)

SOCIAL MEDIA



ASAP @asapasia · Mar 16

...

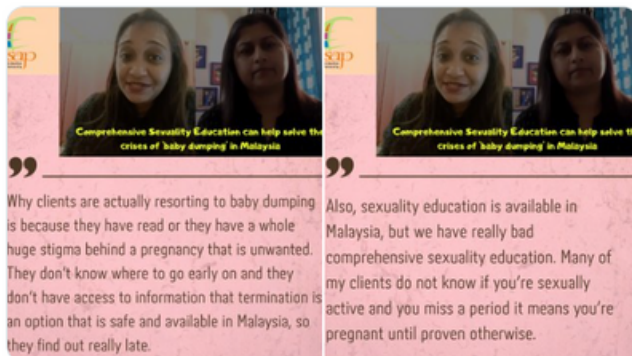
#patriarchy will convince you that a 15 year old girl is ready to get married and have kids (in various cultures across the world), but a 25 year old woman 'will be irresponsible' with #information on medical #abortion pills online 🙄



ASAP
@asapasia

...

Despite their being a law for safe abortion services along with opportunities for #sexeducation (a rarity compared to many countries in Asia), lack of implementation & stigma along with increased prices remain the biggest barriers in #Malaysia . Dr @j_subatra tells in our blog!



Why clients are actually resorting to baby dumping is because they have read or they have a whole huge stigma behind a pregnancy that is unwanted. They don't know where to go early on and they don't have access to information that termination is an option that is safe and available in Malaysia, so they find out really late.

Also, sexuality education is available in Malaysia, but we have really bad comprehensive sexuality education. Many of my clients do not know if you're sexually active and you miss a period it means you're pregnant until proven otherwise.



ASAP @asapasia · Feb 22

...

This is what we need. Porn doesn't exist in isolation and can reflect the patriarchal mindset, but #Porn is also not the enemy here & should reflect everyone's perspective! We shall definitely check out @makelovenotporn @cindygallop thanks a lot for the initiative!



cindygallop.eth @cindygallop · Feb 21

Replying to @asapasia and @parodevi

.@makelovenotporn 'Pro-sex. Pro-porn. Pro-knowing the difference' is THE SAFEST PLACE ON THE INTERNET because I designed it through the female lens around human curation of EVERYTHING (no self-publishing). And yet we're viewed as an online pariah techpolicy.press/long-before-on... #sextech



ASAP
@asapasia

...

With the amount of attention given by society to the mental & physical impact of having multiple abortions, one would assume similar attention would also be drawn to multiple forced births or even post-partum depression. Yet, motherhood is only glorified or actively promoted.

SOCIAL MEDIA

FAQs On Medical Abortion - Campaign

FAQs on Medical Abortion

What is a medical Abortion?

Medical abortion is the termination of pregnancy through the use of a medicine/pill/drug

Abortion by pills?! How safe would that be?

and considerably less than the risks of continuing a pregnancy to term, or any of the other methods that you may resort to terminate unwanted pregnancies.

women use the medical abortion pills, less than 5 of them would need further medical care for any complications.

<https://asap-asia.org/information-booklets/>

It was as early as in the 1980s, when working class women in Brazil, who did not have access to safe abortions and lived in a restrictive circumstances, discovered the drug as a way to induce an abortion safely.

In the late 1990s, when Rebecca Gomperts was a young activist, she travelled to countries where abortion was illegal and met woman after woman whose lives and health had been warped by unwanted pregnancies or unsafe procedures. But Gomperts had an idea.

YOU ARE HERE

BANNED

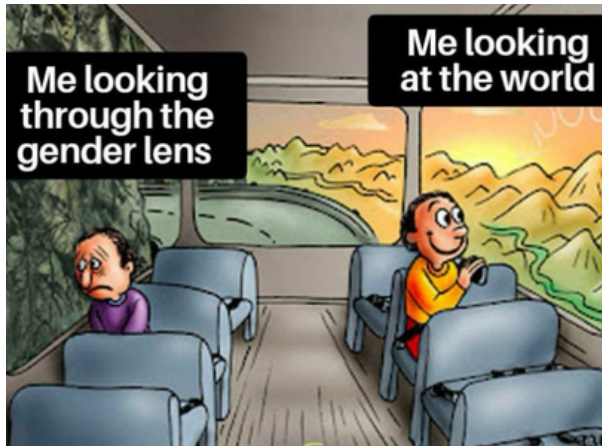
FAQs on Medical Abortion

Twelve miles off a coast, in international waters, local laws don't apply – instead, vessels must follow the laws of the country whose flag they fly.

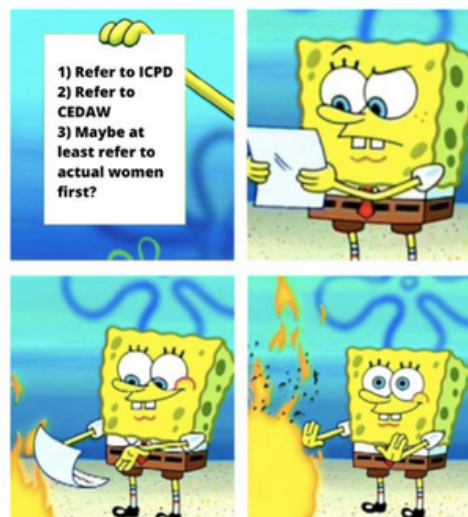


SOCIAL MEDIA

Mememes



Governments when designing laws/schemes for women



SOCIAL MEDIA

Memes

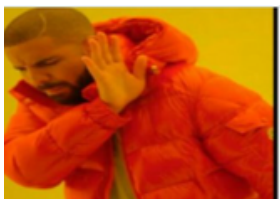


**WE WANT MORE
GIRLS TO BE BORN!!!

SAVE GIRL CHILD!!!**



**..for 'Continuity of
our species and
basically just
Reproduction'**



**Investment
in Woman's
Health**



**Investment
in Warfare**

Absolutely Nobody:

Facebook the moment it detects the word 'abortion' on its platform:



THANK YOU!

Follow us on Social media for
more regular updates

